IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 42 and 47 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, amend Claims 41, 45, 46 and 50, and add new Claims 54 to 59 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A color conversion method of converting a monochrome signal into a color space color signal on a color space independent of an apparatus, comprising the steps of:

setting a tint adjustment value used to adjust the monochrome signal to a desired tint desired by a user;

acquiring color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus and a ~~recording medium~~ printing paper;

converting the monochrome signal into a chromaticity signal of the color space using the tint adjustment value set in the setting step and the color reproduction characteristics acquired in the acquiring step; and

forming a color space color signal from the chromaticity signal converted in the converting step and a brightness signal according to the monochrome signal, and outputting the color space color signal,

wherein[[,]] in the converting step, the monochrome signal is converted so as to map chromaticity points of black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the ~~recording medium~~ printing paper, and map a chromaticity

point of the tint adjustment value for middle lightness excepting neighborhoods of black print color and white print color[[.]] ,and

wherein in the acquiring step, the color reproduction characteristics dependent on the image output apparatus and the printing paper are acquired, as color values used as the black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the printing paper, from an output profile for converting a signal independent of the image output apparatus into a signal dependent on the image output apparatus.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein, in the setting step, the chromaticity point for adjusting the monochrome signal is set as the tint adjustment value.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 43, wherein the chromaticity point is set in a predetermined range in the setting step.

45. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 41, wherein, in the converting step, the monochrome signal is converted into a chromaticity point determined by a rate of change of chromaticity in the neighborhoods of black print color and white print color.

46. (Currently Amended) A color conversion apparatus for converting a monochrome signal into a color space color signal on a color space independent of an apparatus, comprising:

a setting unit that sets a tint adjustment value used to adjust the monochrome signal to a desired tint desired by a user;

an acquisition unit that acquires color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus and a ~~recording medium~~ printing paper;

a conversion unit that converts the monochrome signal into a chromaticity signal of the color space using the tint adjustment value set by the setting unit and the color reproduction characteristics acquired by the acquisition unit; and

a forming and outputting unit that forms a color space color signal from the chromaticity signal converted by the conversion unit and a brightness signal according to the monochrome signal, and outputs the color space color signal,

wherein the converting unit converts the monochrome signal so as to map chromaticity points of black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the ~~recording medium~~ printing paper, and map a chromaticity point of the tint adjustment value for middle lightness excepting neighborhoods of black print color and white print color[[.]], and

wherein the acquiring unit acquires the color reproduction characteristics dependent on the image output apparatus and the printing paper as color values used as the black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the printing paper, from an output profile for converting a signal independent of the image output apparatus into a signal dependent on the image output apparatus.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the setting unit sets the chromaticity point for adjusting the monochrome signal as the tint adjustment value.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the chromaticity point is set in a predetermined range by the setting unit.

50. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the monochrome signal is converted into a chromaticity point determined by a rate of change of chromaticity in the neighborhoods of black print color and white print color.

51. (Previously Presented) A computer readable recording medium, storing, in executable form, a computer program for causing a computer to execute the color conversion method according to claim 41.

52 to 53. (Cancelled)

54. (New) The method according to claim 45, wherein the rate of change of chromaticity is held in correspondence with respective printing papers used with the image output apparatus.

55. (New) The method according to claim 43, wherein a default value of the tint adjustment value is held in correspondence with respective printing papers used with the image output apparatus.

56. (New) The method according to claim 45, wherein the rate of change of chromaticity is set by the user, and the tint adjustment value and the set rate of change of chromaticity are registered as a list to be reutilized from the registered list.

57. (New) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the rate of change of chromaticity is held in correspondence with respective printing papers used with the image output apparatus.

58. (New) The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein a default value of the tint adjustment value is held in correspondence with respective printing papers used with the image output apparatus.

59. (New) The apparatus according to claim 50, wherein the rate of change of chromaticity is set by the user, and the tint adjustment value and the set rate of change of chromaticity are registered as a list to be reutilized from the registered list.